



2023-2024 Druid Hills Education Foundation Annual Report

We believe every Druid Hills High School student should have the opportunity to engage in academic and enrichment opportunities to explore their interests, identify their gifts and develop skills which will set them up for success in school and in life.

The Druid Hills Education Foundation (DHEF) was founded in 2022 to promote the education and development of ALL Druid Hills High School students. Thanks to our generous supporters we are able to support DHHS students across academics, arts, athletics as well as ensure access to mental health and wellness.

During the 2023-24 school year, the Druid Hills Education Foundation raised \$165,000 to support Druid Hills High School.

Through fundraising efforts, the DHEF provided \$80,000 in grants to the Druid Hills PTO, the Druid Hills Athletic Association, and the Druid Hills Fine Arts Alliance supporting DHHS students across a range of activities.

The Druid Hills Education Foundation was also able to provide DHHS with one full-time and one part-time, on-site dedicated mental health counselors through CHRIS 180, an organization that provides children, adults, and families with high-quality, trauma-informed behavioral health services and support systems.

"I continue to be a staunch supporter of DHHS as much for the multi-generations of my own family who attended, those students there now and more who soon will come in pursuit of knowledge. I have been and will continue investing in our collective future."

CHRIS 180

The CHRIS 180 counselors provided support for students and staff through individual therapy (students and families), group sessions (students and staff), wellness resources (students and staff) and referral resources (students and families). In addition to individual therapy sessions, teachers and students were able to participate in the following workshops:

Teacher workshops:

**Teacher Burnout
Trauma and Resiliency
Grit and Growth
Educators Self-Care
Understanding Trauma**

Student workshops:

**Identifying Strengths
Bullying
Social Emotional Learning
Circle of Influence
Emotional awareness and self-regulation**

Students have completed treatment plans, reported significant improvement in their ability to handle stress, anxiety, and triggers, and shared that they feel less alone as they navigate their mental health struggles.

"I've learned to identify what I'm feeling by talking it out and going through steps that you've given me."

"Kids were falling through the cracks."

"I feel more comfortable opening up."

"I learned how to control my anxiety, and how to not be afraid to ask for help."

PTO

The Druid Hills Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) supports the academic and social experience of all DHHS students, develops a closer connection between school and home, provides support to teachers and staff, and provides funding for academic and student life initiatives. DHEF provided a \$20,000 grant to the DHHS PTO which funded the following:

Teacher, classroom, and club grants

Financially supported the Prom

Supported hospitality & teacher appreciation activities throughout the year

Kept parents informed of school events and issues through weekly newsletter, eblasts, and social media posts

Organized welcome-back-to-school Red Devil Day

Presented AMA (Ask Me Anything) featuring Principal

Presented Fall Parent Education Program *What is IB? A Parent's Guide to Understanding the International Baccalaureate*

Teacher and staff appreciation week

Cash award to Teacher of Excellence

Senior Class pre-commencement ceremony

DHFAA

The Druid Hills Fine Arts Alliance (DHFAA) was established in the fall of 2023.

The purpose of the DHFAA is to support performing and visual arts at Druid Hills High School including theater, music and visual arts. DHEF provided a \$15,000 grant to the Druid Hills Fine Arts Alliance which funded the following:

Honor Society Memberships

Orchestra room sound system and equipment

2 Red Devil Production theater production expenses (required security, production rights, travel expenses for competitions)

Fine Art classroom enrichment materials (cutting machine, ceramics, photography and art supplies)

Support for annual Fine Arts Showcase, May 10 & 11 (marketing, security, meals/refreshments, display supplies)

Shamara Williams, sponsor of Red Devil Productions, made the One Act Play competition happen—an activity DHHS appears to have not previously competed in—with a special grant from the Druid Hills Fine Arts Alliance made possible with DHEF funding.



"Public education is much more than academics, the experiences hold life lessons."

"We contribute to our neighborhood high school because we value the education our children received in the past. We invest in the future of DHHS so other children may have the same chance."



DHAA

The Druid Hills Athletic Association (DHAA) supports over **1,000 student athletes** at DHHS and DHMS participating on **42 teams** competing in **21 different GHSA and club sports**.

DHEF provided a \$45,000 grant to the Druid Hills Athletic Association which funded the following:

Temporary lighting at DHMS training facilities, supporting over 500 DHHS and DHMS athletes

Supplemental stipends to coaches to ensure continued commitment to Druid Hills athletics

Team grants to provide equipment and training beyond that provided by DCSD

Druid Hills ESPY awards and Hall of Fame ceremony



The team also benefited from a VEO camera, paid for by the Druid Hills Athletics Association with funding provided by the Druid Hills Education Foundation, that allowed them to review film from their games and get advice from their coach on how to improve.

"That was a good investment for all the teams. Seeing how you play on the field helps you understand the game better. It also helps with recruiting, because you can put together a highlight reel."

Thank you to the following supporters during the 2023 Rally for the Red Devils Annual Campaign



PLATINUM DEVIL \$5,000+

Tommy & Ellen Marshall

GOLD DEVIL \$2,500+

Josh & Lacey Andrews
Amy & Dean Crownover
Fishbein Family
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SILVER DEVIL \$1,000+

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Sara and Rick Blanchard
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DHHS Class of 1983
Becky & David Evans
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Goldsmith Family
Beth & DJ Grisewood
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Every dollar
we raise
benefits our
Red Devils.

